

JAMES A. REED

ANNOUNCES HIS CANDIDACY FOR GOVERNOR IN A SPEECH AT SEDALIA SATURDAY NIGHT.

Stands Upon the Platform of the Democratic Party and Discusses State and National Issues at Length.

SEDALIA, MO., SEPT. 19.

Mayor James A. Reed, of Kansas City, spoke at the Court House in this city to-night. He was accompanied by a large delegation of his political friends from Jackson county who arrived on a special train during the afternoon. There were also present delegations of his friends from other parts of the State, and he was greeted by a representative Democratic audience. Mayor Reed formally announced his candidacy for Governor in his address to-night. He spoke as follows:

Fellow Citizens:—Some months ago I received a very complimentary invitation to address the citizens of Pettis county upon the political issues of the day. My official and other duties have hitherto rendered acceptance impossible. I did not, however, forget the cordiality of the request nor the honor done me.

I am glad to embrace this my first opportunity to respond. I do not feel that I am a stranger to the Democrats of this splendid county, as I have in the past often come at your bidding and enjoyed the pleasure of meeting with you.

This county has reason to be proud of its citizenship and particularly of the great Democrats who have resided here. For many years Sedalia was the home of the illustrious orator and statesman whom we all love and revere, Senator George G. Vest. You had once as your neighbor the brilliant and scholarly orator, statesman and jurist, Judge John F. Phillips. Nor have you forgotten the residence among you of the brave soldier, profound lawyer and upright judge, James B. Gannt. These men and many others whom I cannot now pause to name have gained the admiration, respect and confidence of the State and nation and your people are justly proud of their achievements.

I know that I am addressing an audience that is accustomed to hear men of great ability and must ask for your most charitable consideration.

My labors have been so arduous during recent days as to prevent that careful preparation which the occasion warrants. Nevertheless I hope to discuss in an intelligent manner the attacks which our ancient enemy is making upon the Democratic party.

THE GLORIOUS RECORD OF MISSOURI DEMOCRACY.

The history of Missouri's Democracy is but little less illustrious. When it came into power in 1872 the Drake Constitution hung like a pall over the liberties of the people. Infamous laws denied the right of fair elections. As corrupt a set of knaves as ever banded for robbery had fastened upon the State a debt of more than twenty-three millions of dollars. County after county had been robbed by the issue of fraudulent railway bonds. The railroads and some other great corporations paid no revenue into the state treasury, while the people were taxed at the rate of fifty cents on one hundred dollars. The penal, eleemosynary and educational institutions were mere wrecks. The public school system was imperfect and inadequate. All these and many other deplorable conditions were bequeathed to us by the Republican party.

Thirty years of Democratic rule have passed—thirty years of achievement and enlightened progress.

In lieu of the Drake Constitution the Democratic party has given a bill of rights which guarantees the liberties of every citizen. Instead of laws which denied any representation upon election boards to the party out of power, and made it possible for these partisan boards in (for illustration) Boone county, to allow but 410 citizens out of a population of 4,000, to vote, it has provided bi-partisan boards, which afford the guarantee of fair elections, and it has further secured the right of the citizen to an untrammelled suffrage by the adoption of the Australian ballot.

It has carefully conserved the finances of the state, and collected and disbursed millions of dollars without the loss of a penny. It has extinguished the state debt, except the amount due the school fund. It has reduced the rate of taxation from fifty cents to seventeen and one-half cents, the

lowest rate paid in any state. And of this seventeen and one-half cents, seven and one-half goes to the schools. The railroads, which under Republican rule escaped all taxation, are now assessed \$125,000.00, a valuation higher than is fixed in any Republican state which touches our borders.

When the Republicans were in power the fees collected from corporations found their final resting place in the pockets of the Republican officeholders. Under Democratic government these fees, which last year amounted to more than \$500,000, have been turned into the State Treasury.

Under Democratic management the number of asylums has been increased from one to five, and a Reform School for boys, and an Industrial School for girls have been established, and liberally maintained. The educational institutions of the State including the State University, have been enlarged and extended until they have justly become the pride of our people.

While other States were a few years since afflicted with every variety of legislative hysteria, the Democracy of Missouri, always sturdy and conservative, refused to make a single unjust attack upon vested interests, or deface the Statutes with a line of frenk legislation, but it did pass a large number of wholesome and just measures for the protection of the laboring classes, among which are:

(a) The law giving to fellow servants the right of recovery against railroads.

(b) Laws providing for the inspection of factories and mines.

(c) Prohibiting the employment of children of tender years in factories.

(d) Making the first Monday in September a legal holiday.

(e) Declaring eight hours to be a legal day's work.

(f) Prohibiting the payment of labor in "script," and compelling payment in lawful money.

(g) Creating the State Board of Arbitration.

(h) It has further protected the wage earner by prohibiting interference with his right to organize. It has established free employment bureaus in the large cities. Protected the labels of labor organization, and enacted many other Statutes, which while of special value to the wage earner have at the same time been in the interest of the public at large.

Our party has given to the people as a whole a wise and enlightened system of laws which protect them in all their natural rights. It has fostered and developed the public school system, and guarded the religious liberties of the people. Everywhere within the Commonwealth, the church and school, twin blossoms of civilization, spring to the view.

And finally the Democratic party has defended the reputation of the State from the aspersions of the Republican press and the slanders of the Republican organization and it has rendered to the people of Missouri the distinguished service of keeping the Republican party out of power.

This magnificent record gives warrant for the confidence that our party can, better than the Republican party, or a sporadic organization, accomplish any needed reforms, or eradicate the evils and abuses which have been discovered.

THE BOODLER VS. HONESTY CRY.

Despite this splendid record there are those who now declare that the sole issue in the coming campaign is to be "BOODLE VS. HONESTY," and by implication, so broad as to amount to a direct charge, that the Democratic party is responsible for official corruption and is therefore not to be further trusted.

Let us candidly examine this claim. If it be well founded, then of course, notwithstanding its glorious past, the old Democratic party should be cast out. If, however, the charge be not true, then the slander must react upon those who gave it birth.

Fairly and impartially, then, let us look at the facts. There appears to have been two places in which boodling occurred, and each place had its own particular scoundrels. First there was wholesale corruption which grew up under the Republican-Ziegenhain administration at St. Louis. Second, there was the corruption which existed among some members of the State Senate at Jefferson City.

The places are not only widely separate, but the actors from first to last are distinctly different, except in the single instance I shall state. It is manifest, therefore, that intelligent discussion requires that the corruption at St. Louis must be considered as a separate proposition.

REPUBLICAN CORRUPTION IN ST. LOUIS.

For many years the Republican party had been in control of the city government of St. Louis. In the



JAMES A. REED, MAYOR OF KANSAS CITY.

spring of 1897, it elected Henry Ziegenhain mayor. Under this Republican-Ziegenhain administration all, or practically all, of the corruption at St. Louis grew up. A majority of the municipal assembly boldly banded themselves together for the purpose of exacting bribe money. At the same time the representatives of powerful corporate interests willingly entered into a conspiracy with these aldermen, because the concessions desired could be obtained more cheaply by corrupting public servants than by honestly purchasing the concessions from the municipality.

Manifestly, these conditions could not long continue. The corruptionists—corporate and aldermanic—became bolder and bolder. The citizens of St. Louis saw rights which were worth many thousands of dollars given away without compensation. They beheld with astonishment the bankruptcy of the municipal treasury and looked with indignation upon conduct which each day more clearly demonstrated the venality of their municipal officials. So apparent was this corruption, that in the elections of the fall of 1900, and again in the spring of 1901—the Democrats boldly charged that the Ziegenhain administration was reeking with villainy. And in both elections the Democracy was triumphant upon the issue so made.

As to the Ziegenhain administration, it is now patent that "its latter end was worse than the first." It was during this "latter end," in the months of October and November, 1900, that Charles H. Turner, president of the Suburban Railway Company, entered into a corrupt scheme with the representatives of the Aldermanic bribery combine. Pursuant to the terms of this conspiracy \$135,000.00 was deposited in two safe deposit vaults, to be paid when the Aldermanic rogues should steal the franchise which the Suburban Company desired. "The Combine" tried to carry out the infamous agreement, but before it could be consummated the Circuit Court issued an injunction, and prior to the dissolution of the injunction, the terms of office of the corrupt councilmen expired. The ex-aldermen demanded a part at least of the corruption fund. Turner refused to pay anything; he stood upon his contract, and said its conditions had not been complied with. The aldermen actually employed an attorney, who seems to have conceived the brilliant idea that these thieves could recover on a "Quantum meruit."

The controversy between these public plunderers over this huge corruption fund of \$135,000.00 waxed fast and furious. It will be remembered that at the time this conspiracy to rob the city of St. Louis was entered into, and the corruption money placed in the safe deposit box, both bribe giver and bribe taker retained a key so that neither party could obtain possession of the fund without the concurrence of the other.

Hoping to frighten Turner into releasing the money one of the gang gave a guarded intimation of their wrong doing to a newspaper. Thereupon public inquiry was aroused and fearing exposure and punishment for his crime, Turner consulted an eminent criminal lawyer, Gov. Chas. P. Johnson. Upon his advice, Turner sought out the Circuit Attorney and made a clean breast of the entire disgraceful transaction. Following his confession Turner testified to the same facts before the St. Louis Grand Jury and upon this evidence several indictments were returned.

There remained however, a missing link in the chain of evidence, which could not be supplied, unless the testimony of John K. Murrell could be secured. Murrell was at that time a fugitive from justice. This testimony was obtained by the Post-Dispatch, which, at its own expense, located Murrell in Mexico, sent a representative there, and induced him to return and testify.

Prosecutions promptly followed. The evidence was there, bald, naked, unanswerable. The press had already published many of the salient facts. The voice of the people and the mandate of the law alike demanded that justice take her course.

The developments of these trials were startling. They showed such an outrageous condition as called for swift punishment, and those who assisted in bringing these rogues to the bar of justice are entitled to the thanks and commendation of all Missourians.

In St. Louis there have been about twenty convictions. In all cases there have been, I believe, appeals. But four of the appeals have yet

reached the Supreme Court. Three of these cases have been reversed for errors occurring in the trials, while the fourth appeal filed has been advanced upon the docket on the motion of the State. Of the cases reversed, two have been retried, and an increased punishment given. The Meyersberg case, reversed some nine months ago because of a defective indictment, and for other reasons, has not yet been retried.

It is to be regretted that errors occurred in any of the cases at nisi prius, as otherwise some of these rogues might now be expiating their crimes in the penitentiary. But it should be added, in fairness, that in the haste of trials, errors are sometimes unavoidable. This, then, is the end of the St. Louis chapter up to date. It is separate and distinct from the Jefferson City transactions, to which I now turn.

BOODLE REVELATIONS AT JEFFERSON CITY.

At the last session of the General Assembly a bitter controversy occurred over the effort to pass the Davidson text book bill providing for the re-letting of the contract for furnishing school books. During the progress of this controversy a number of Democrats refused to act with the Democratic caucus, and it was alleged were acting with the Republican minority. This engendered much feeling, and some suspicion. Finally, the speaker—Mr. Whitcomb—openly charged that corrupt methods were being employed. This led to an investigation by a committee of the House, and finally to the convening of a special Grand Jury in Cole county, by a Democratic Circuit Judge, James E. Hazel. This action I understand was requested by Governor Dockery. In any event it stands as a fact that the Governor had been earnestly endeavoring to secure tangible evidence of the alleged corruption. As soon as the Grand Jury was called, the Governor directed the Attorney General to assist in the investigation. This request of the Governor was concurred in by the Democratic Prosecuting Attorney of Cole County. As soon as these steps had been taken, John A. Lee—the Lieutenant Governor, made a confession to Attorney General Edward C. Crow. And it is upon this confession that all of the indictments thereafter found against State Senators, except that against Senator Sullivan, are based.

It is plain then that the credit for what has been accomplished in ferreting out corruption at the Capitol must be given to the Democratic officials at Jefferson City. As a result of their labors, indictments have been returned against four State Senators. What Lee's confession contained, or what other evidence was adduced before the Grand Jury of Cole County, is very largely a matter of inference, because the Attorney General and the Prosecuting Attorney of Cole County have very properly refused to make public the proceedings of the Grand Jury.

What we do know is that one Democratic Senator, and three Republican Senators, have been indicted. And that of the latter, Senator Sullivan, has been tried and convicted of soliciting a bribe.

Following, or coincident with these proceedings, the Grand Jury at St. Louis began investigating matters connected with State legislation. The public, through the press, have been served daily with accounts purporting to give the complete proceedings of the Grand Jury. Whether true or otherwise we cannot well tell since each grand juror makes solemn oath "the counsel of the State, my fellows and my own to truly keep," and the witnesses also make oath not to "directly or indirectly divulge the testimony they may give, nor even the subject matter under consideration by the Grand Jury." We assume that these oaths have been observed and hence conclude that much that has been said may be rumor.

The Grand Jury at St. Louis, as the result of its labors, returned two indictments, both against Senator Faris, who had been previously indicted in Cole County. The people of the State have every reason to confidently expect that fair and impartial trials will be promptly had.

Briefly, nineteen members of the Ziegenhain regime in St. Louis have been convicted of corruption or perjury, thirteen of whom are Republicans and six Democrats. There are four State Senators indicted, three Republicans and one Democrat.

Upon this state of the case we are gravely told that the issue is "Cor-

ruption versus Honesty." Is this a correct statement? Before there can be a political issue, there must be two sides to a controversy. Each side must have its adherents and each must have sufficient strength so that a battle is necessary to determine which is the stronger. If all of the people are of one mind, there can be no issue. If practically all of the people are on the same side a political issue can hardly be said to exist. There cannot be much of an issue between a gnat on a railway track and an eighty ton locomotive. To affirm that there is a necessity for making a political issue on boodlism in Missouri is to say that a considerable portion of the people are in favor of corruption, and that a battle must be fought to determine whether the honest men are in the majority. I declare that this is not the case. Boodling only existed because it was undiscovered. It is a secret crime. I quote from an eminent authority: "No one knows of the transaction except those implicated in it." When, however, the disclosures came, they aroused the indignation of all classes, and all parties. Republicans, Democrats, Populists, men of all conditions and opinions expressed the utmost abhorrence and contempt. The universal demand from every quarter of the State was and is that no guilty man shall escape.

UNJUST ATTACKS UPON THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY.

This statement embodies substantially the facts relating to municipal and legal corruption. Is there any thing in the record which justifies the malevolent attacks of the Globe-Democrat and the Kansas City Star upon the Democratic party of Missouri? Can the failure to perform his whole duty to the public in these prosecutions be justly charged against any Democratic official?

The commendation of all true Democrats has been given in unstinted measure to all who have had an official duty to perform in purging the public service of the baneful influence of corruptionists. To Judge James E. Hazel, who promptly convened a special Grand Jury in Cole County, and vigorously directed a thorough investigation of charges of legislative bribery, is due the thanks of all good citizens. The same feeling should extend to Attorney General Edward C. Crow for securing the confession of Lee, without which little could have been accomplished, and for his able co-operation with Prosecuting Attorney R. P. Stone in the Grand Jury investigation. Circuit Attorney Joseph W. Folk, in the performance of his duty as public prosecutor at St. Louis, has justly merited and will ever receive the grateful praise of all law abiding citizens for his energetic efforts to secure the conviction of faithless public servants.

The great influence of the Governor's office has been at all times earnestly exercised by Alex. M. Dockery in aiding the State, both in the judicial investigations at Jefferson City and in the effort to secure the extradition of fugitives beyond the borders of the Republic.

It is no less gratifying to us that the Democratic Circuit Judges, Ryan and Douglas, of St. Louis and Henry C. Timmonds of Lamar, have shown a most commendable spirit in bringing these cases to speedy trial to the end that prompt justice might be administered.

All the machinery of the law in these investigations and prosecutions has been directed by Democratic officials, and Democrats everywhere may rejoice and feel a pardonable pride in this splendid record of faithful public service.

All of these officials are entitled to credit for the honest performance of duty. Yet, there are but few of them who will claim any special commendation. It is not so rare a thing in Missouri to find an official who is performing his plain duty. The performance of duty is not so astonishing a thing as the discovery of corruption among officials.

The rule in this state is for officers to do their duty. That is why we have officers.

HONESTY THE RULE IN MISSOURI.

The propagandists who raise the cry that the issue is "Boodle vs. Honesty," appear to be of the opinion that there is grave question whether enough fairly honest men can be found, so that the army of the wicked, mustered beneath the "banner of boodle," will not prevail. This is a strangely laughable proposition. If the banner of boodle were to be set up there would not be a corporal's guard who would enlist, and they would meet after dark and hide out before the dawn. There is no state, no country, the citizens of which more than equal in christian sincerity and rectitude of character the people of Missouri.

Who most loudly raises this boodle cry? When a statement is made, you have the right to look into the character and motives of its author. If he be fair and honest and a friend, you may generally consider his advice. If he be a known enemy, it is usually safe to discredit his statements. That there are many honest men who may have been carried away by this slogan I doubt not; but who are most interesting themselves in its propagation? Before we slay the faithful old shepherd dog let us see if there is not wool sticking between the teeth of the wolves that stand as his accusers. Who is it that presumes to tell the Democratic party what candidates it must nominate, and what platform it must adopt? Is it the voice of Esau, or the voice of Jacob?

ABUSE BY THE RADICAL PRESS.

Foremost of those who seek to name the candidates, and dictate the policies of the Democratic party, we find the St. Louis Globe-Democrat and Kansas City Star, and following in their wake every mugwump and Republican paper in the state.

What is the quality of their friendship for our party? For years the Globe-Democrat denounced Missouri,

It sat at the eastern gate-way of the commonwealth and warned the world that Missouri was the robber state. Even more despicable and slanderous have been the utterances of the Kansas City Star. On the 10th day of March, 1898, it vilified and slandered every citizen who had the proud privilege of birth upon Missouri's soil. The Star was discussing Honorable Frank P. Schree, a native of Saline county, who was then the Democratic nominee for Mayor of Kansas City. Among other things it said:

"That he was born in Missouri counts for but little in a State where there is such a lamentable quota of natives who have no idea of progress, and no sympathy for modern ideas. His experience in the Legislature, before coming to Kansas City, was nothing, when it is remembered that the great municipalities of this State have suffered most severely * * * * * through rural representatives at the State Capitol."

Thousands of loyal Missourians demanded an apology, but the Star not only stood upon its insult, but reiterated it on February 2, 1898. Here is a part of the article:

"(The Star) can well afford all the abuse it is receiving from Missourians, who are responsible for the social and political limitations from which the State has suffered."

This attack upon Missourians generally was only a part of this paper's settled policy. During almost the entire year of 1898 it denounced the Criminal Court of Jackson County as corrupt, and boldly claimed that the rural Democracy of that splendid county and of the State was shielding the worst classes of criminals. Never was slander more unwarranted or infamous.

It is, however, in the abuse of ex-Confederates that the Star has found its favorite field of action. Here is the play ground where its malice finds delight in each old wound that it can make to bleed again, and as it thrusts its venomous tongue into the faces of the brave who lost, its hatred turns into that kind of joy which may sometimes tickle the hearts of fiends. Bear with me while I quote:

"Turn the Guerrillas Out."

"Train robbery in Jackson county will never cease until the cause, of which masked bandits are the effect, is eradicated, or rendered harmless."

"The cause is the sympathy of the dyed-in-the-wool butternut Democracy of Jackson county with train robbery. This element must be driven from office. It must be taught that the days of war and rapine are over, and that Kansas City does not propose to have the specter of Quantrell preside over its department of justice. The reason train robbers have not been punished is simply because the officials have truckled to the element in Jackson county which still bears allegiance to the late Confederacy."

These persons are still at war with the United States and don't comprehend that robbing trains is not an act of reprisal and war. To get into power it has been the custom of the worst men of the city and county Democracy to fraternize with this Guerrilla element, and elect to office its sympathizers and kinsmen."

Nor are these ancient and dust covered utterances. Nor yet have they been confined to one paper. They have been the common stock in trade of many of the Republican papers, although the Star in this, as in most things infamous, leads on the mob.

It was but on July 12th, last, that the Globe-Democrat gave tongue again to the old villainy. In this instance, however, the assault was not directed against ex-Confederates alone, but was a general broadside aimed indiscriminately at all Democrats who live in the country districts. A preliminary word. Edward Hickman was Secretary of Chief of Police Hays of Kansas City; he was transferred to another position by the Police Board, and John Marens, formerly a Democratic editor of Hamilton, Missouri, was appointed Secretary. Here now, is the infamous article:

"Hickman is distasteful to the rural Democracy of Jackson county * * * and its objection to him is that he shot and killed a train robber, who refused to obey his summons to halt. * * * But the rural Democracy in Jackson county, which idealizes and idolizes fellows who hold up trains, have not been brought to a frame of mind where they can be either forgetful or forgiving. The rural ring of the party thinks it is retribution too long delayed, and not sufficiently severe, because he is not removed from the rolls altogether, and they will go after his scalp with renewed vigor, regarding his removal from the Secretaryship as a waning of the powers behind him."

April 9th, 1865, the war was ended, and children then unborn are now the heads of families and counselors of State. Another war has come, and sons of those who wore the Blue and those who wore the Gray have died together upon Santiago hills to give an added glory to their common flag. Thirty-eight years have passed, but the surviving veterans of the Confederacy, who through them all have been the best of citizens, are still the targets for an envenomed press.

Yet, again let us consider. These are the same papers that, having for years cast the foulest of slanders upon the reputation of the State, suddenly raised the cry, "Stand up for Missouri," but, even here, the force of long continued habit got the mastery, and so they mingled such utterances as "Poor old Missouri," and "Moas Back Missouri," with "Stand up for Missouri." It was a delightfully ludicrous though insulting paradox. But the people of Missouri remembered the day when the Republican party had not "stood up for Missouri," but "had stood Missouri up," and robbed her of more than twenty millions of dollars, and they respectfully declined to repeat the experience.

Once more let us reflect. These are the same papers that only last campaign asserted that the public monies had been pilfered, and the school fund looted, and that in the face of the indubitable facts continue to this very day to insult the intelligence of the people of the State by insistent

reached Seventy-seventh
bears eloquent testimony to his
memory.
and a few actually
Chicago Daily News.